

ILL-FATED CHARLESTON.

BY MRS. F. G. DE FOUNTAINE.

Charleston has been the victim of all the elements. In 1838 nearly the whole of the habitable portion of the city was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt, and in 1844 again burned. In 1861, just at the breaking out of the war, the finest part of the city was for the third time destroyed. Then came grim-visaged war, and left its impress on the entire city. After this a tidal wave swept over it, carrying large vessels into the principal streets and thoroughfares. It had just recovered from this disaster, coupled with a terrific season of yellow fever, when a cyclone struck the city, dealing death and devastation all around. The panic occasioned by this discussion of Providence had scarcely abated when the recent and most appalling catastrophe occurred.

In the fire of 1861 many of the historic buildings were destroyed. The handsome Catholic Cathedral, which had just been finished, was left in ruins. The old St. Andrew's Hall, in which the "Jockey Club" and "St. Cecilia" balls were already held, and the old theatre, in which the best actors of both continents had played, were burned to the ground.

Secession or Institute Hall, where was held the famous "Democratic Convention" which met just prior to the nomination of Lincoln, and from which the Southern and Western delegates seceded and inaugurated another convention in the old theatre, was also one of the ruins. It was in this hall that the Hon. William L. Yancy, of Alabama, made the speech of his life, when he kept his immense audience spellbound for more than two hours, and finished amid cries of "Go on, go on, we'll listen till morning!" Here also the "Ordinance of Secession" was ratified, which marked one of the most exciting episodes of that eventful period. When R. B. Rhett, "the father of secession," knelt, and bowed his head in silent prayer over the document he was about to sign, there was scarcely a dry eye in the house, and the excitement was so intense that fully fifteen minutes elapsed before the next signature was affixed. Two of the members, who had walked from arm upon the platform, were discussing the matter later in the evening, when one remarked, "Yes, we have signed it in ink, but many of us will seal it in blood. They both became colonels of regiments, and were killed in the same battle not ten feet apart."

Charleston is rich in historic interests, and despite its conflagration, tidal waves, and earthquakes, it still has its blessings. One may stay in hotels and drink medicinal water from nature's own dispensary twenty-five hundred feet below the surface of the earth; or lounge for hours after night-fall on the "Battery," the coolest promenade in this zone. For a few nickels, and in the space of fifteen minutes, he can be landed on Sullivan Island, where mosquitoes are at rest, a blanket is essential to healthy slumber in the dog days, and the slow, deep, mellow voice of the surf, full of mystery and awe, sings a perpetual lullaby, while each rippling wave lays at the feet some tribute from old Ocean's storehouse. Nineteen or twenty miles away one may hide among the piney woods of Somerville, breathe air fit for the gods, and find a thousand rural pleasures that leave no pain behind.

It is a town which will be forever memorable in the history of this Republic, for it has always been inhabited by a brave and generous people, loving liberty, and true to their convictions.

That the recent earthquake will have the effect to set back the tide of prosperity which had begun to flow in is almost certain; but to a people who, despite such grievous trials and discouraging setbacks, have struggled with extraordinary energy to recover their losses and place themselves after each disaster in a position of greater importance, there is no such word as fail. The population during the past five years made a gain of twenty per cent, and up to the time of the last disaster had reached 60,145.

Northern capitalists have taken hold, and given an impetus to railway communications, while the phosphate beds are developing mines of wealth for their owners. The harbor, by a recent act of the Federal Government, is about to be deepened, so that vessels of the largest draught can take on and discharge their cargoes at the Charleston wharves, and thus make that seaport equal in importance to any in the country.

With the sympathy of the entire Union, and proffered assistance from various sources, the proud "Palmetto City" will again rise from her desolation, and with renewed energy enter upon a period of prosperity unparalleled in its previous history.

THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY ELECTION HELD FOR YEARS—PATRONAGE AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE NEW GOVERNOR.

Not only is a governor to succeed Leon Abbott to be elected in this State in November, but there are many other important offices to be filled. The campaign is the most important occurring in four years, as upon the result depends not only the political complexion of the Legislature and the chief executive, but the Congressional delegation, one senator and in a measure the other, the judiciary and many State and county officers. The election of a Republican governor and a Democratic Legislature would change nearly half the officials in the State government.

Next to the gubernatorial, the contest for seats in the Legislature is most important. Upon that body depends the selection of a United States Senator to succeed William J. Sewell, and many minor State officers and commissioners.

There are seven State Senators to be elected, who will have a voice in the selection of a successor to the present Democratic United States senator, John R. McPherson, whose term expires in 1890.

Three of those retiring from office are Democrats and four are Republicans. A Prohibitionist candidate for Senator in Cumberland might defeat the nominees of both the other parties, so strong is the sentiment there in that direction. The present Senate stands thirteen Republicans, eight Democrats, and it is improbable that there will be a change of more than one either way, unless Cumberland county should elect a Prohibitionist.

Sixty assemblymen are to be elected in place of thirty-one retiring Republicans and twenty-nine Democrats.

All the districts in the State elect congressmen also in November. Those retiring with their politics are as follows:

First District, George Hires (Rep.); Second District, James Buchanan (Rep.); Third District, Robert S. Green (Dem.); Fourth District, James N. Pilecock (Dem.); Fifth District, William W. Phelps (Rep.); Sixth District, Herman Lehbach (Rep.); Seventh District, William McAdoo (Dem.).

The temperance question has so complicated matters that it is extremely difficult for the mathematicians of either the two old parties to figure anywhere near the result. There is likely to be a great change in the vote, but exactly which way no one knows.

The patronage at the disposal of the new governor during the first year of his administration will be tremendous. Most of his appointments and nominations are subject to confirmation by the Senate this fall. He will nominate a Secretary of State in place of Henry C. Kelsey, Democrat, whose term expires in April, 1887. An Attorney General in place of John P. Stockton, Democrat, whose term expires in 1887.

A chancellor in place of Theodore Runyon, Democrat, whose term expires in '97. A clerk of the Supreme Court in place of Benjamin F. Lee, Democrat, whose term expires in 1887.

A State prison keeper in place of the temporary appointee, whose term expires March 31, 1887.

Supreme Court Judges, in place of David A. Depue, Republican, of Essex; Joel Parker, Democrat, of Monmouth, and William J. Magie, Republican, of Union, all of whose terms expire in 1887. A lay judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals, in place of Jonathan S. Whitaker, whose term expires in 1887; a District Court Judge in Camden County, one in Union, three in Hudson, one in Passaic and one in Mercer.

Also Riparian Commissioners in place Amzi Dodd and Arthur G. Ogilby; a Sinking Fund Commissioner in place of Eugene S. Doughty, deceased, for an unexpired term; Two R. R. Commissioners in place of Abraham M. Reynolds and Alex. C. Cattell.

He will also nominate during the session of the next Legislature law judges for Camden and Passaic counties, a lay Judge in Atlantic county, one in Bergen, one in Burlington, one in Cape May, one in Cumberland, one in Essex, in place of Judge Ledwith, one in each of Gloucester, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Salem, Somerset and Union counties; also Prosecutors of Pleas in Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

The Legislature in joint session will elect two Commissioners of Pilotage in place of Thomas S. Negus and Robert Simonson, members of the Board of Health, three managers for the Morris Plains Asylum, two for the Trenton Asylum, seven trustees for the Normal School, two trustees for the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, two trustees for the State Industrial School for girls, two for the Industrial school for boys, and an unlimited number of Commissioners of Deeds and Police Justices.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.—One of the most interesting and useful pages that has ever appeared in this most useful magazine is that in the October issue, giving a number of designs for small pieces of furniture, such as brackets, sconces, book-racks and the like. Every article shown in the page is novel and practical. There is likewise a full page of Arabic borders and panels that will be of great value to artists and wood carvers. The latest importations in vases are illustrated and described in an appropriate article. Some new English patterns in wall papers are shown, together with good sensible directions for the selection of papers. A comprehensive article on Graining gives instructions how best to do that work, and will be of service to the graduate and the amateur. A corner of a room furnished by Louis C. Tiffany is very attractive, as is also a design for economical parlor furniture. A continuation of the series on Church Decoration is given, an article telling prices and styles of new carpets, and some excellent furniture sketched from the South Kensington Museum. An interior of a Colonial house at New London is amusing. There is a colored plate of the famous American Cup, worthy of preservation.

The department devoted to showing the new things in the trade, furniture, stoves, etc., is especially complete and valuable.

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